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Renata Hesse
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Dear Ms. Hesse:

I have the good fortune to be located in one of the nation's most dynamic high-tech centers, the Research Triangle of North Carolina. Through my experience in journalism, politics and advertising, I have seen the importance of competition and innovation in the information technology industry.

This is why I strongly believe that it would be in the best interest of our nation's overall economy for the courts to approve the pending settlement in the Microsoft antitrust case.

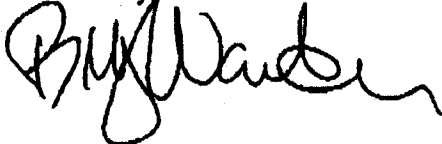
Microsoft may well have stepped over the line as a fierce competitor. The courts have ruled that it did. Now, through the efforts of a court-appointed mediator, this settlement has been negotiated.

The U.S. Justice Department has concluded that the settlement protects consumers and competitors alike from continued anti-competitive actions by Microsoft. The Attorney General of North Carolina and other states have reached the same conclusion.

Accordingly, it is my hope that the settlement now will be finalized and approved by the court. Further litigation of this matter is not in the best interests of consumers or of our economy generally.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



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